

Dual Citizenship for NRIs

2528. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the decisions taken on the issue of granting dual citizenship to NRIs and persons of Indian Origin abroad; indicating the various aspects taken into consideration and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): The Government has decided not to consider the grant of dual citizenship to Persons of Indian Origin holding the citizenship of another country. The facilities made available in different fields, namely economic financial and educational under the scheme for issuance of Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) card are considered adequate.

Cross Border Terrorism

2529. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cross-border terrorism is a curse to humanity because it has caused more damage than conventional wars;

(b) if so, what has been its repercussion on Governments in Israel, France and U.K. which he recently visited;

(c) the names of the countries who supported India's battle against terrorism; and

(d) the names of such countries with whom Government propose to set up joint working groups to face terrorism and raise a coordinated fight against militancy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. India regards State sponsored terrorism as a threat not only to our country but to the entire humanity. The tour of Israel, France and U.K. was undertaken with the main focus on problems of trans-border terrorism. We feel that the countries, which are victims of trans-border terrorism, should learn from the experience of each other and work together against this menace.

We have received positive response from the Governments of Israel, France and U.K. We now look forward to increased cooperation from these countries. We also propose to work for early establishment of Joint Working Groups with Israel, France and the United Kingdom.

Incidents of dowry deaths

2530. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study of married life in urban Indian society carried out recently has revealed that incidents of dowry deaths has risen from around 5000 a year to 6637 last year and the existing laws are not good enough;

(b) whether the malignancy of demanding dowry and maltreating daughters-in-law afflicts Hindu and Sikh lower middle class families and it is much less prevalent among Muslims and almost unknown in Indian Christians; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps Government propose to take in close cooperation with the NGO's, voluntary organisations and philanthropic institutions to eschew dowry deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI):

(a) As per the information received from the National Crime Record Bureau, the number of cases of dowry deaths in the country during the year 1996-1999 as follows:

Year	No. of cases of dowry deaths
1996	5,513
1997	6,006
1998	6,975
1999	6,574